

304 LADY WINDERMERE'S
FAN [Acx I

Lady Windermere. You are going to
invite this woman ?

[Crossing to

him.

Lord Windermere. Yes.

Paitse. Enter Parker.

Parker!

Parker. Yes, my lord.

[Conies down

L C.

Lord Windermere. Have this note sent to Mrs.

Erlynne

X&. 84A, Curzon Street. [Crossing to LC and at

giving note to

Parker. There is no answer! [Exit Parker

C.

Lady Windermere. Arthur, if that woman comes

here,

I

shall

insult her.

Lord Windermere. Margaret, don't say that.

Lady Windermere. I mean it.

Lord Windermere. Child, if you did such a thing,

there's

not

a

woman in London who wouldn't pity you.

Lady Windermere. There is not a good woman in

London

who

would not applaud me. We have been too lax.

We

must

make an example. I propose to begin to-

night.

[Picking

up fan.] Yes, you gave me this fan to-day; it

was

your

birthday present. If that woman crosses my

threshold,

I

shall strike her across the face with it.

Lord Windermere. Margaret, you couldn't do such

a thing.

Lady Windermere. You don't know me! [Moves

R.

Enter Parker.

Parker!

Parker. Yes, my lady,

Lady Windermere. I shall dine in my own room. I

don't

want

dinner, in fact. See that everything is ready by

half-past

ten. And, Parker, be sure you pronounce the

names

of

the

guests very distinctly to-night. Sometimes you

speak

so

fast that I miss them. I am particularly

anxious

to

hear

the names quite clearly, so as to make no

mistake.

You

understand, Parker?

Parker. Yes, my lady.

Lady Windermere. That will do!

[Exit Parker

C.

[Speaking to Lord Windermere.] Arthur, if that

woman comes

here—I warn you

Lord Windermere. Margaret, you'll ruin us!

Lady Windermere. Us I From this moment my life

is

separate

from yours. But if you wish to avoid a public

scandal,

write at once to this woman³ and tell her that I

forbid

her

to come here!